

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing a video conference, comprising:

an audio mixer operable to receive one or more audio streams associated with a video conference from one or more end points and to determine an active speaker associated with one of the end points; and

one or more media switches operable to receive audio information associated with the active speaker, wherein one or more of the media switches are operable to suppress one or more video streams except for a selected video stream associated with the active speaker, the selected video stream propagating to one or more of the media switches during the video conference, and wherein a selected one of the media switches is operable to replicate the selected video stream such that it may be communicated to one or more of the end points associated with the selected media switch, the audio mixer being central to the video conference and residing in a network, the audio mixer being able to create a mixed stream, which includes audio and video data, that may be communicated to one or more of the end points such that the end points do not have to perform audio mixing.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the selected video stream propagates to one or more of the media switches during the video conference using a multicast protocol.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a selected one of a multicast and a unicast operation is performed between the selected media switch and the end points associated with the selected media switch.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a selected media switch is operable to enable a selected one of the end points associated with the video conference to lock-on to a participant of the video conference, the selected end point propagating a fixed video (FV) stream associated with the video conference.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a selected media switch is operable to control whether a selected one of the end points receives an FV stream, a switched video (SV) stream, or any combination thereof.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a selected one of the end points does not receive an SV stream based on the active speaker, and wherein the selected one of the media switches is operable to enable a selected one of the end points to receive the SV stream based on a selected whiteboard control feature.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a selected one of the media switches is operable to enable a moderator of the video conference to control a video source such that a selected one of the end points receives a selected video stream as determined by the moderator.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a media bridge operable to provide one or more media services for the video conference such that one or more of the media services are delivered to one or more of the end points.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the media bridge includes a selected one or more of a media transformer, a transcoder, and a transrater.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a gateway operable to provide connectivity to one or more media switches, one or more of the media switches being operable to facilitate participation in the video conference by the first and second end points.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for executing a video conference, comprising:

receiving, by an audio mixer, one or more audio streams associated with a video conference from one or more end points;

determining an active speaker associated with one of the end points;

receiving audio information associated with the active speaker at one or more media switches;

suppressing one or more video streams except for a selected video stream associated with the active speaker, the selected video stream propagating to one or more of the media switches during the video conference; and

replicating the selected video stream such that it may be communicated to one or more of the end points associated with a selected one of the media switches, the audio mixer being central to the video conference and residing in a network, the audio mixer being able to create a mixed stream, which includes audio and video data, that may be communicated to one or more of the end points such that the end points do not have to perform audio mixing.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the selected video stream propagates to one or more of the media switches during the video conference using a multicast protocol.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

performing a selected one of a multicast and a unicast operation between the selected media switch and the end points associated with the selected media switch.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
enabling a selected one of the end points associated with the video conference to lock-on to a participant of the video conference, the selected end point propagating a fixed video (FV) stream associated with the video conference.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
controlling whether a selected one of the end points receives an FV stream, a switched video (SV) stream, or any combination thereof.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein a selected one of the end points does not receive an SV stream based on the active speaker, and wherein the selected media switch is operable to enable a selected one of the end points to receive the SV stream based on a selected one of a whiteboard control feature and a bandwidth parameter.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
enabling a moderator of the video conference to control a video source such that a selected one or more of the end points receives a selected video stream as determined by the moderator.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
providing one or more media services to the video conference such that one or more of the media services are delivered to one or more of the end points.

19. (Previously Presented) A system for executing a video conference, comprising:

means for receiving one or more audio streams associated with a video conference from one or more end points;

means for determining an active speaker associated with one of the end points;

means for receiving audio information associated with the active speaker;

means for suppressing one or more video streams except for a selected video stream associated with the active speaker, the selected video stream propagating to one or more media switches during the video conference; and

means for replicating the selected video stream such that it may be communicated to one or more of the end points associated with a selected one of the media switches, wherein the system includes an audio mixer that is central to the video conference and that resides in a network, the audio mixer being able to create a mixed stream, which includes audio and video data, that may be communicated to one or more of the end points such that the end points do not have to perform audio mixing.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 19, wherein the selected video stream propagates to one or more of the media switches during the video conference using a multicast protocol.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for performing a selected one of a unicast and a multicast operation between the selected media switch and the end points associated with the selected media switch.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for enabling a selected one of the end points associated with the video conference to lock-on to a participant of the video conference, the selected end point propagating a fixed video (FV) stream associated with the video conference.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:
means for controlling whether a selected one of the end points receives an FV stream,
a switched video (SV) stream, or any combination thereof.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 19, wherein a selected one of the end points
does not receive an SV stream based on the active speaker, and wherein the selected media
switch is operable to enable a selected one of the end points to receive the SV stream based
on a selected whiteboard control feature.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:
means for enabling a moderator of the video conference to control a video source such
that a selected one or more of the end points receives a selected video stream as determined
by the moderator.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:
means for providing one or more media services to the video conference such that one
or more of the media services are delivered to one or more of the end points.

27. (Previously Presented) Software for executing a video conference, the software being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer code such that when executed is operable to:

receive, at an audio mixer, one or more audio streams associated with a video conference from one or more end points;

determine an active speaker associated with one of the end points;

receive audio information associated with the active speaker;

suppress one or more video streams except for a selected video stream associated with the active speaker, the selected video stream propagating to one or more media switches during the video conference; and

replicate the selected video stream such that it may be communicated to one or more of the end points associated with a selected one of the media switches, the audio mixer being central to the video conference and residing in a network, the audio mixer being able to create a mixed stream, which includes audio and video data, that may be communicated to one or more of the end points such that the end points do not have to perform audio mixing.

28. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the selected video stream propagates to one or more of the media switches during the video conference using a multicast protocol.

29. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the code is further operable to:
perform a selected one of a unicast and a multicast operation between the selected media switch and the end points associated with the selected media switch.

30. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the code is further operable to:
enable a selected one of the end points associated with the video conference to lock-on to a participant of the video conference, the selected end point propagating a fixed video (FV) stream associated with the video conference.

31. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the code is further operable to:
control whether a selected one of the end points receives an FV stream, a switched
video (SV) stream, or any combination thereof.

32. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein a selected one of the end points
does not receive an SV stream based on the active speaker, and wherein the selected media
switch is operable to enable a selected one of the end points to receive the SV stream based
on a selected whiteboard control feature.

33. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the code is further operable to:
enable a moderator of the video conference to control a video source such that a
selected one or more of the end points receives a selected video stream as determined by the
moderator.

34. (Original) The medium of Claim 27, wherein the code is further operable to:
provide one or more media services to the video conference such that one or more of
the media services are delivered to one or more of the end points.